

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ARA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2548

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5838

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CU, AO

SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROJECT SOBER IMAGE ON ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY. IN APRIL 14 CONVERSATION WITH FRG POL COUNSELOR ARNOT, MFA SECOND AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS STRESSED THE "SOBRIETY" OF SOVIET, ANGOLAN AND CUBAN APPROACH TO CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ARNOT TOLD ACTING POL COUNSELOR APRIL 14 HE HAD BEEN IN SAME DAY TO SECOND AFRICAN DEPARTMENT (RESPONSIBLE FOR ANGOLA) TO ELICIT SOVIET VIEWS ON RECENT INDICATIONS CUBANS WOULD STAY AS LONG AS NEEDED FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. ACCORDING TO ARNOT, SOVIETS RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS CUBANS WERE IN FACT BEING "DRAWN DOWN" SLOWLY IN ANGOLA. THEY ADDED THAT DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO KEEP THEM AT LEAST 150 KILOMETERS NORTH OF NAMIBIAN BORDER, AND THAT ANGOLANS WERE SERIOUS ABOUT
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ASSURING SECURITY OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FROM CUNENE

DAM. THSES STEPS, SOVIETS EMPHASIZED, WERE INDICATIVE OF "SOBER" APPROACH ANGOLANS WERE TAKING TOWARD TENSE SITUATION IN SOUTH ANGOLA. ARNOT INTERPRETED SOVIET REMARKS TO MEAN CUBANS AND SOVIET ALSO WANTED TO BE SEEN AS "SOBER."

4. SOVIETS HAD ALSO PUT CONSIDERABLE STRESS ON ANGOLAN DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, ARNOT SAID. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIET FACT-FINDING MISSION, SOVIETS SAID, ANGOLANS HAD MADE A POINT OF RECALLING THAT WHEN GULF CEASED OPERATIONS IN CABINDA, IT HAD LEFT PLANT IN FULL RUNNING ORDER; THAN ANGOLANS HAD TAKEN CARE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY; THAT THEY WERE CONVINCED GULF WANTED (AND INTENDED) TO RESUME OPERATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE; AND THAT THEY HAD WELCOMED THIS. THEY HAD SAID THEY WISHED TO CREATE SECURE CONDITIONS FOR WESTERN PRIVATE CAPITAL, AND WOULD ALSO LOOK WITH FAVOR ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE EFFORT TO RECONSTRUCT AND DEVELOP.

BREMENT

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